

HISTORICAL SKETCH
of
FORT RECOVERY



by
MARTHA E. ROHR

Northwest Territory

INDIANA ROOM

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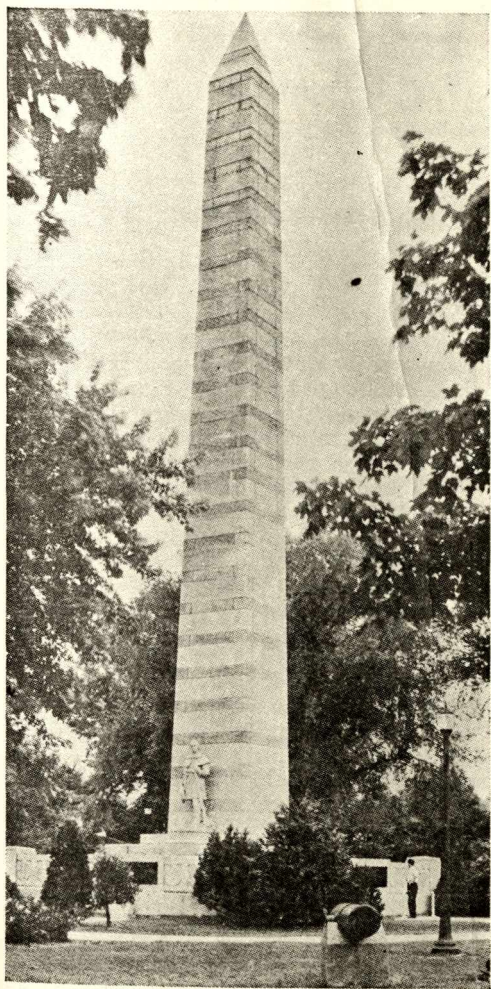
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FORT RECOVERY

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MARTHA E. ROHR

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INDIANA ROOM

The Northwest Territory

OHIO may be called the mother of the West. Not only has she furnished a large proportion of pioneers for every state beyond her borders, but on her soil were settled many of the issues which determined the future of the United States of America as a great continental nation rather than to have its extent a narrow strip along the Atlantic coast, surrounded by jealous and hostile rivals.

In colonial days, the land now known as Ohio was claimed by Virginia, although the territory had never been explored by Virginians, and no one knew its extent, for very little surveying had been done, and very few white men had traversed its forests, with the exception of French traders and missionaries. Several other colonies disputed this claim.

Through the statesmanship of John Jay and Benjamin Franklin, in negotiating the Treaty of Paris, 1783, which closed the Revolutionary War, England ceded to the United States the land north of the Ohio and East of the Mississippi. One of the first problems which confronted the new

acre. As United States certificates of debt, worth then about twelve cents on the dollar, were accepted in payment, the actual cost of the land was about eight cents an acre. The first party of forty-seven immigrants was organized and sent out under the leadership of General Rufus Putnam. They landed at Marietta, where the first permanent settlement in Ohio was made April 7, 1788. The territorial government was established there, with General Arthur St. Clair as Governor.

The Miami Company was next organized by John Cleve Symmes and associates, and they purchased 311,082 acres, from which a tract was sold to Matthias Denman of New Jersey, being the land where Cincinnati now stands, and that city was founded in December, 1788. The next year Fort Washington was erected and garrisoned to protect the settlement from hostile Indians. The following year some twenty thousand settlers came down the Ohio.

Although the Treaty of Paris had ostensibly closed the Revolutionary War and determined national boundaries, yet the British had not withdrawn from Detroit, and they had never relinquished the hope of finally owning all the land north and west of the Ohio. They kept agents employed who intrigued with the Indians and encouraged them in savage hostilities against the Americans.

Because of the divide separating the rivers flowing to the Great Lakes and those flowing to the Ohio, this region was destined to become the battle ground over

sound of the woodsman's axe, while the smoke from his cabin was a certain warning that soon they would be driven from their forests. Their outrages against the frontiers had never ceased, and now, at the founding of these new settlements on the north shore of the Ohio, the Indians broke out into open and violent warfare.

Governor St. Clair had invited the tribes to a council of peace at Fort Harmar in 1789, and some responded, including a number of great chiefs and sachems; but the Miamis and Shawanese refused to attend the council, and they and their allied tribes did not sanction the treaty, but sounded the warning, "No white man shall plant corn in the Ohio country."

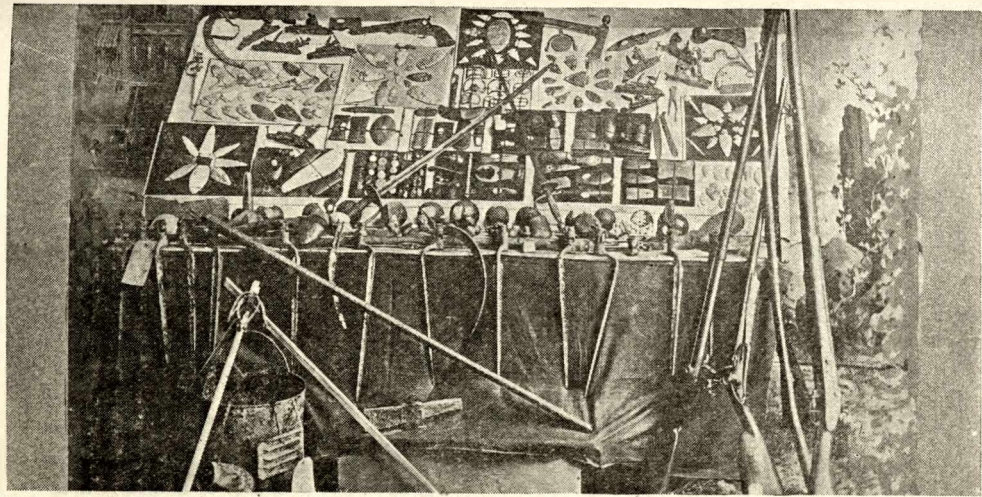
The main stronghold of the powerful Miami nation was at the headwaters of the Maumee, the present site of Fort Wayne; in the words of Little Turtle, their great chieftain, this was "That glorious gate through which all the good words of our chiefs had to pass from the north to the south and from the east to the west."

On Governor St. Clair devolved the obligation of forcing the Indians to sue for peace, and in 1790 he dispatched General Harmar with thirteen hundred men into the wilderness to chastise the red men; after destroying some deserted villages, they continued to the Maumee, where the Indians under Little Turtle, executed a brilliant piece of strategy, ambuscaded the whites, and inflicted a harrowing defeat, forcing them to retreat with heavy

of regulars. Therefore, preparations were made for a campaign with a mixed force of militia, regulars and special levies. Governor St. Clair, with the rank of Major General, was placed in command of two small regiments of regulars, and authorized to enlist an additional two thousand men. Colonel Richard Butler was promoted to the rank of Major General, and remained in Pennsylvania to collect and forward recruits.

The Quartermaster General was furnished by Congress with twenty thousand dollars, and later, with an additional sum of seventeen thousand for equipping the army. For such an expedition, the funds provided were inadequate, but with heavy obligations, both foreign and domestic, Congress hesitated and debated in making appropriations. The Secretary of War, hampered in his newly created office by insufficient funds, was slow in making plans and in carrying them out.

If we are inclined to think graft is a modern development, we need only read of the tribulations which beset General St. Clair in his preparations for this campaign on which depended the safety of many thousands of families and the future of the nation whose foundations were still insecure. As always in war times, there were those ready to profit by the necessities of the critical situation. The quartermasters were derelict in duty, and the contractors were both corrupt and inefficient. The axes which were to be used in cutting roads through the virgin forests were of such poor temper that their



le with their proper guard, who were to remove them in case of the enemy appearing. Without the columns, at a distance of about one hundred yards, marched the cavalry in file, and without them at the same distance, a party of riflemen, and scouts without them; then followed the rear guard at a proper distance."

Roads had to be cut through heavy timber, and through the swamps great tree trunks had to be felled to make a roadbed. Over several streams of considerable volume it was necessary to construct bridges. Progress was at the rate of not more than six or seven miles in a day.

Twenty miles from Fort Washington a fort was built at the crossing of the Great Miami River, to which was given the name of Fort Hamilton. During the construction of the fort, the process of assembling the army still continued, and added to the other anxieties of the aged commander was the fact that supply trains were always behind schedule. The army was short on rations much of the time, and there was lack of provender for the horses. Had it not been for the abundance of wild game, the straits would have been sore, indeed.

Besides the regulars, there were the six months levies, some of whom had been recruited from the streets and prisons of seaboard cities, the Kentucky militia, ordered out for this particular service, a few cavalry, and a couple of small batteries of light guns. There were also

even more reserved in his relations with his superior officer.

A considerable garrison was left at Fort Hamilton, and the main army moved forward on October 4th. By the thirteenth, an advance of but forty miles had been accomplished, and a halt was made to build another little fort, which was named in honor of Jefferson. Here two small cannons were mounted, and a small force was left, along with numbers of soldiers who had fallen sick on the way.

The march was resumed on October 24th, but there were further delays caused by lack of management in the commissariat department, and only six miles beyond Fort Jefferson the army was compelled to halt for several days on the present site of Greenville, awaiting the arrival of supplies and sending out scouts.

On October 30th, 1791, the army moved forward, the direction of advance changing to northwest. Only seven weary miles were accomplished that day, and on the thirty-first, sixty of the Kentucky militia deserted. It was feared they would plunder the second convoy of provisions, which should have been but a few miles behind the army. The whole of one regiment of regulars was detached and was sent back to prevent further desertions and to protect the supply train. However, as usual, the quartermaster had been negligent in not starting the supplies at the appointed time, and they were at a greater distance than the Generals had thought possible. This resulted in reducing the effective force to about fourteen

may have been the families of some of the volunteers who had joined the army for the sake of the protection it would afford them in seeking out new homes, never dreaming that the Indians would attack so large a force.

In the camp, discontented men and tired women had improvised hasty shelters, and shivering in the cold November atmosphere, had built fires and were seeking such rest as was possible. The main part of the army was drawn up in two lines on the southeast bank of the stream, with not over seventy yards between them, and with the artillery in the center. This cramped position was all that the nature of the ground would permit. Here was a comparatively open space, with the river in front, while there was a small branch on the left; on both flanks and along most of the rear, the ground was low and wet. To add to the discomfort, a light snow had fallen and there was a skim of ice on the stream.

The militia had been sent across the river and had encamped on high ground about a quarter mile distant. It was the intention to throw up some light work of defense and to remain here until the first regiment, which had been sent back, should return with the supplies. The commanders expected an engagement in the morning, but they under estimated the strength of the hostile army.

While the weary troops slept, the malevolently gloomy forests which crept close to the restricted camp were filled with swiftly moving shadows. Little

making easy marks for the savages.

In the fierce battle which followed, most of the artillery fire was wasted, for the foe remained hidden, firing from shelter. They picked off the artillerymen and the officers, who went up and down the lines, attempting to rally their troops and to direct the gunfire. Under cover of the smoke, the Indians rushed in again and again with their tomahawks, gliding away while the bewildered whites were still firing blindly into the surrounding woods.

The men saw no enemy as they stood in the ranks to load and shoot; in a moment, without warning, fierce, painted faces frowned through the haze, the war axes gleamed, and on the frozen ground the weapons clattered as the soldiers fell. As the comrades of the fallen sprang forward to avenge them, the lithe warriors vanished as rapidly as they had appeared, and once more the soldiers saw before them only the forest and vague half glimpses of the hidden foe, through the shifting smoke wreaths, while the steady singing of the Indian bullets never ceased, and on every hand the bravest and the steadiest fell, one by one.

The army as a whole fought bravely at first, though ringed by a wall of flame. The officers never ceased encouraging and cheering their men, but this fact only made more certain that they should become special targets for the enemy. The troops were drawn up in two lines facing outward, and St. Clair and Butler walked up and down the lines,

scalped the slain as they lay about the guns. So ghastly a sight would have been unnerving to even the most seasoned troops. A survivor was so struck by the grewsome spectacle that in his story he compared the reeking heads to pumpkins in a November cornfield.

Major Thomas Butler had his thigh broken by a bullet, but he continued, on horseback, in command of his battalion until the end of the fight, and led his men in one of the momentarily successful bayonet charges. The only regiment of regulars present lost every officer, killed or wounded. The commander of the Kentucky militia, Col. Oldham, was killed early in the action while trying to rally his men, clumsy and ill trained as they were.

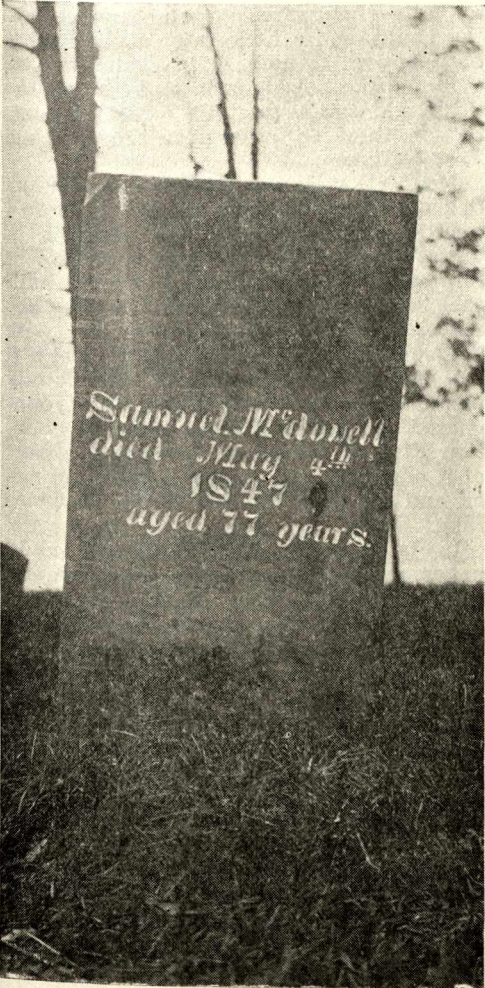
The Retreat

Further resistance was hopeless; there was but one thing to do. If possible, the remnant of the army must be saved by instant flight, even at the cost of abandoning the wounded. The broad road by which the army had advanced was the only possible line of retreat. The artillery had been silenced and abandoned. Most of the horses had been killed, but a few were still left, and on one of these St. Clair mounted. He gathered those few survivors of the different battalions who still kept heart and head, and ordered them to charge and regain the road from which the savages had cut them off. Col. Darke and a few officers placed themselves at the head of the column, the

were obliged to expose themselves in a most unusual degree in their efforts to rally their panic stricken men. Thirty-nine officers were killed and twenty-one wounded.

Among the wounded were Col. Sargeant, the Adjutant General; Col. Darke Col. Gibson, Major Butler, and Viscount Malartie, who served as one of St. Clair's aides; Captains Doyle, Truman, Ford, Buchanan, Darke and Hough; Lieutenants Greateon, Davidson, DeButts, Price, Morgan, McCrea, Lysle and Thompson; also, Adjutants Whistler and Crawford, and Ensign Bines.

The horrors of that awful day have been told for us in personal narratives of the survivors, and from the journals of officers and others connected with the expedition. The only thought in the minds of most of the terror stricken horde was escape, and they flung down their bayonets as they ran, with the sharp points toward the enemy that this might impede the pursuit. However, those of their own number who followed had this extra hazard added to their own desperate situation. The stronger and the few that had horses pressed on to the front, trampling through the old, the weak and the wounded. At first the Indians fell back to load their rifles, gaining the ground lost by running on again, but those who continued the savage work of adding to their collection of gory scalps, chose the tomahawk as doing more deadly and constant execution.



Samuel McDowell
died May 4th
1847
aged 77 years.

assistance of a young soldier of Butler's legion, he would have been there yet. A few more questions and replies and they recognized each other; it was the youth whose life Mr. McDowell had saved on the retreat.

They were both surprised and delighted to meet again, and the gentleman took our hero home with him and introduced him to his family. He had become a wealthy merchant, and he took Mr. McDowell to his store and fitted him out with a fine suit and other presents, which he cherished as long as he lived. He died May 4, 1847, at the age of 77 years, and his remains lie under a humble marker in the old village Cemetery on Gwendolyn Street.

Benjamin VanCleve

Another survivor who left in the pages of his journal a picture of the flight from the scene of St. Clair's defeat was a packer by the name of VanCleve. Among his fellow packers were his uncle and a young man named Bonham, who was his close and dear friend. The uncle was shot in the wrist and shoulder, but escaped. Bonham, just before the retreat began, was shot through both hips, so that he could not walk. Young VanCleve got him a horse, on which he was with difficulty mounted; then, as the flight began, Bonham bade VanCleve look to his safety, as he was on foot, and the two separated. Bonham rode until the pursuit had almost ceased; then, weary and

Red Headed Nance. Both were crying, the corporal for the loss of his wife, the woman for the loss of her child. The wornout officer hung to the corporal's arm, while VanCleve carried his fusce and accoutrements and led Nance; and in this sociable way they arrived at Fort Jefferson a little after sunset.

In later years, Benjamin VanCleve was a prominent and influential citizen of Montgomery County, and was with the first settlers who came to make their homes on the present site of Dayton. He kept the first school in the block-house at that place. His journal has been the basis of many historical sketches.

The woman, Red Headed Nance, eventually reached Cincinnati, lived to be an old woman, and often told the story of her narrow escape on that dread day. She was a very tall woman, and must have been an unusual one to have saved such a flaming scalp from the blood-thirsty savages.

Near Fort Jefferson the fugitives met the first regiment which had been detached and sent back several days before, but they had neither found the provision train nor captured the deserters. While their absence had seriously reduced the number engaged in battle, General St. Clair was rather inclined to think that their presence could not have turned the tide, and it was probably fortunate they missed the engagement.

Disaster Reported to Washington

As soon as Gen. St. Clair reached the

recruited from city streets, were entirely unacquainted with frontier life, were underpaid, and there had been unnecessary delay in forwarding them. The quartermaster and contractors had been negligent and corrupt. The army was short of food for the men and fodder for the horses. The equipment of tents, clothing, axes and ammunition was of such inferior quality as not only to cause delay and discomfort, but even to be a positive menace. There had been numerous halts while waiting for the supplies, and the last of these was the fatal one on the banks of the Wabash.

St. Clair was almost universally censured, but the investigation proved that he had not had the support to make a successful campaign possible; in spite of the infirmities of age and his physical handicaps, he had acted with utmost bravery and was the last to leave the field. He had contributed of his private means in his devotion to the cause, and his honorable character and his past services to his country, all had their weight in his exoneration.

Upon publication of the report, the Secretary of War addressed a letter to Congress, complaining that injustice had been done him by the Committee; the report was again submitted to the same Committee, but after hearing all the statements of the Secretary and reconsidering the whole matter, the first report was reaffirmed.

The loss of so many gallant officers and brave men was felt severely by the en-

parted to General St. Clair, and that he did not hear of it until his arrival at Fort Washington.

Brigadier General James Wilkinson, veteran of several Indian campaigns, succeeded General St. Clair as commander at Fort Washington, and in the following February a detachment of one hundred fifty mounted men was sent to the scene of the massacre. Some writers have called this a "punitive expedition." However, if there was any intention of punishing the Indians, no retaliation was possible at that time, as no red men were seen and not a shot was fired. The purpose was to bury the dead and to recover anything of value that might remain at the camp site.

There was a deep snow on the ground, the weather was bitterly cold, and the men suffered severely from frost bite. A few miles from the Wabash they began to find bodies on the road and in the nearby woods. Many had been dragged from beneath the snow by wild animals; others were found where they had fallen, showing as mounds beneath the winding sheet of woven snow. On the battle field itself, the slain lay thick, scalped and stripped of their clothing, many showing evidence of torture. The mouths of the men had been filled with earth, signifying their land hunger, and great stakes had been driven through the bodies of the women.

Samuel McDowell was with the volunteers for this sad duty of burying the remains, and in his story, as given in Howe's

the creek, and I think the latter the most probable, but as it was frozen over with thick ice, and that covered with deep snow, it was impossible to make a search with any prospect of success.

"In a former part of this letter I have mentioned the camp occupied by the enemy the night before the action; had Colonel Oldham been able to have complied with your orders on that evening, things at this day might have worn a different aspect."

About the year 1872, Mr. Sanford Warnock, assisted by his young son, Sylvanus R. ("Vene") Warnock, was engaged in the construction of the building at the northwest corner of Wayne and Boundary Streets, known as the old Krenning Building, and now occupied by the Weiler & Long store. The youth noticed a hollow sound near the northwest corner of the excavation, and called the attention of his father to the phenomenon. Raising his pick, he struck a heavy blow which broke through the surface and splashed water up over him. Upon examining the opening, imagine their excitement when they discovered a large coffin. A crowd soon assembled, and the word was noised around that General Butler's grave had been found.

When the cover was removed, a skeleton, well preserved, and apparently perfectly articulated lay exposed to view in the clear water which filled the coffin. However, in removing the box, the bones separated and floated loose in the water. No clothing remained, but there was a

now determined to assure a successful defense of the western frontier by appointing the most able and fearless leader available. The man chosen as Commander-in-Chief to succeed General St. Clair was Major General Anthony Wayne, whose bold and dauntless courage had won for him the sobriquet of "Mad Anthony." This name was appropriate only in the sense that no considerations of personal safety could halt the gallant soldier when once committed to a hazardous adventure. His cool and brilliant military skill soon won for him the respect of his savage foes, and he became known among them as the "Chief who never sleeps."

General Wayne arrived at Fort Washington in April, 1793, with an army of 2600 men, and began intensive military drill. Not only was that his own policy, but the counsel of President Washington was most insistent that there must be no possibility of falling into the difficulties which had beset the former expedition on account of insufficient preparations. When the advance was finally made no better trained troops had ever been led into battle.

Late in 1793, General Wayne advanced about eighty miles north of Cincinnati, to the point on the Stillwater where General St. Clair had been forced to halt and await supplies. Here he built a strong fort and named it Fort Greeneville in honor of his old companion in arms, General Nathaniel Greene.

From this place, in December, he sent

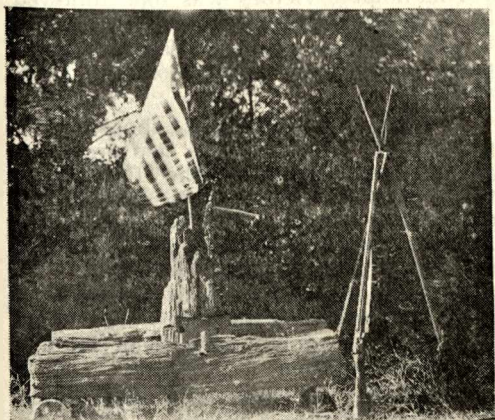
about two hundred men. Through the efforts of the British agents and runners from the allied tribes of the Lower Lakes, the Chippewas and other tribes of the Upper Lakes, were induced to join the Wyandots, Shawnees, Tawas, Weas, Delawares and Miamis of the local tribes, making a force of over two thousand warriors. This was the largest body that had ever marched against the whites. They were eager for war, and confident of carrying the fort built on the scene of their former victory over St. Clair.

Scouts for the whites reported that the enemy were under the command of British officers with a detachment of Detroit militia. Their plan was to surprise the fort and take it by storm, but as the attack began, they found a pack train outside the walls of the fort. Major McMahon had left Fort Greeneville on the previous morning with provisions and munitions for Fort Recovery, his force consisting of ninety riflemen and fifty dragoons. The supplies had been deposited in the fort the same evening, while the escort was encamped outside.

The Indians rushed their camp soon after daybreak, but were repulsed with heavy loss. However, they renewed their attack and kept up a heavy fire all day: then, under cover of darkness, they used torches in removing their dead and wounded.

The next day the attack was renewed, but the garrison, re-enforced by Major McMahon's force, which had meanwhile

moved by the garrison before the battle and was then used in defense of the fort. One cannon was known to be missing, and about the year 1834 it was found buried in the mud near the mouth of a small creek, probably the one known later as Bloody Run, and still later as Buck Ditch. This was secured by an artillery company at Cincinnati. Thus a very important his-



Base of Flagstaff Unearthed in 1876

torical relic which should have remained here was allowed to go from the community, to the private profit of some mercenary individual.

The decisive defeat which the savages suffered in their attack on Fort Recovery disheartened and discouraged them, and the Upper Lake Indians soon dispersed. Though the allied force was the

cinnati. It consists of two blockhouses and barracks with curtains, and contains sixty men."

By the time the first permanent settlers became established here, the fort had been abandoned, and the old stockade became the favorite playground for the children of the little village which grew up about its site. The design of the stockade which appears above the entrance of The Fort Recovery Banking Co. is the artist's conception from the description handed down by tradition from those first families.

Bone Burying Day of 1851

The channel of the Wabash River at that time ran near the site of the old stockade, the present course having been dredged out in comparatively recent years. In 1851, boys playing along the river bank came upon some bones, and in great excitement reported their discovery. The citizens organized a search, and a great number of the skeletons which had been buried there sixty years before were exhumed.

The remains were placed in state during the summer, while preparations were made for suitable ceremonies for their re-interment. A great mass meeting of citizens from Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio was called for the purpose of giving suitable recognition to the memory of those who had fallen here, and a very memorable celebration it was. For two generations thereafter it was referred to as the "Bone Burying Day," and

grave in the village cemetery, which lies on the west side of South Gwendolyn Street, in the rear of St. Marys church, and the place was marked by a low circular mound of earth and stones. Near by was the grave of their comrade, Samuel McDowell, who died and was buried there in the year 1847.

The ceremonies were in charge of a committee whose chairman was General Hiram Bell of Darke County, with the title, "Officer of the Day." There was a long roll of presidents and assistants, composed of prominent citizens of Mercer, Darke and surrounding counties.

Even at that early day, the importance of permanently marking the scene of the two battles with an appropriate monument was recognized. A committee was appointed, and in a series of resolutions, read before the large assemblage, urged the dedication of the burial ground and the erection of a suitable monument.

The Fort Recovery Memorial Association was organized at the same time and continued active throughout the decades which followed. Petitions were presented to many succeeding sessions of Congress, asking that a memorial be erected in recognition of the blood shed here. Interest was fostered by veterans of various wars and their descendants, by Pioneer Associations, and at public mass meetings, such as political rallies, Fourth of July and Memorial Day celebrations. After the Civil War, the returned veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic took the

painted sand color with coating of sand, and many visitors were no doubt impressed by its imposing appearance

The base was probably fifteen feet square and carried suitable inscriptions, one of them reading, "Honor the Heroes of 1791." Above this rose a square pyramid about thirty-five feet in height, with a flag floating above. A pipe ran up the inside, carrying natural gas to a double burner at the top, which could be lighted at night. The base was weighted with several wagonloads of field stone. After a few years it was considered unsafe, and was removed to the park, and was finally blown down in a windstorm.

The centennial year arrived without favorable action by Congress, but a great three-day celebration was planned for October 14, 15 and 16, as being more practical for an outdoor spectacle than the actual anniversary date of November 4th. The programs bore this statement:

"It is now intended on this One Hundredth Anniversary of the memorable battle to hold suitable Commemorative Exercises, and to initiate a movement that shall, in the end, by an appropriate monument, suitably mark the spot and record the fact of this event, and perpetuate the memory of those who gave their lives here to their country."

The bones which had lain in the village cemetery for forty years were taken up and lay in state for the three days of celebration in the Disciple Church on South Wayne Street, and a guard of honor was kept on duty during the time.

among them being General J. Warren Keifer of Canton, Ohio, Senator Joseph B. Foraker, and Hon. John Sherman, who had been on the Centennial program, and who served for many years as United States Senator from Ohio.

In 1910, our Fourth Congressional District was represented in Congress by a Mercer County man, Hon. Wm. E. Touvelle of Celina, and he was successful in securing the passage of a bill authorizing erection of a monument, and appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars for that purpose. Mr. Touvelle was assisted by General Keifer, Hon. Robert Gordon of St. Marys, former Congressman from this district, and by United States Senator, Theo. Burton, in presenting the matter to Congress. No doubt the favorable action was also a tribute to the memory of United States Senator Mark Hanna, who had presented the bill to the preceding session of Congress, it being the last bill which that brilliant man sponsored.

The contract was awarded to The Van Amringe Granite Company of Boston, Massachusetts, and work was begun as early as possible in 1912, and was finally completed and accepted by the government in November. A crypt was prepared in the concrete foundation beneath the base of the structure, in which to deposit for the last time the remains of the fallen heroes of 1791 and 1794. The bones, many of which bore the marks of the tomahawk and the scalping knife, were found to be in a good state of preservation, though the action of the water had

pedition, together with the victorious detachment from General Anthony Wayne's army, is a shrine to which thousands of visitors are attracted each year. It would be a deserved honor and tribute to have this removal made.

The monument stands on a granite terrace thirty-five feet square, surmounted by two bases, eighteen feet, six inches square, and fourteen feet, four inches square, respectively; the shaft, itself, rises ninety-three feet, four inches above the base, and the entire height from the foundation to the apex is one hundred one feet, four inches, all of grey granite.

Standing at the base, on the west side is an heroic figure, nine feet in height, representing a frontiersman, with his musket in one hand, and his coonskin cap in the other, typical of the volunteer heroes who accompanied the expeditions, rendering invaluable service as scouts and sharpshooters. The figure is a tribute to all the unnamed ones who lie beneath the shaft.

On each of the four sides of the base is a bronze tablet six feet ten inches long and two feet wide, and inscribed with historical data.

On a series of thirty-two medallions, twenty-two inches in diameter, eight on each side of the base, are carved the names of officers slain in the two battles.

The west side being the front, the names carved thereon are: McMahan, Gen. Wayne, Gen. St. Clair, Butler, Hartshorn, Craig, Oldham, and Ferguson.

Inscription on West Tablet

"This monument is erected to commemorate the valor and perpetuate the memory of the heroic soldiers who were here slain in those two memorable conflicts of the Northwest Territory—The Defeat of Arthur St. Clair and The Victory of Anthony Wayne.

"It marks the sacred spot where lie buried the fallen heroes who so bravely met and gallantly fought the savage foe; who as advance guards entered the wilderness of the West to blaze the way for Freedom and Civilization; who sacrificed home and life to the great duty of securing for a future inheritance vast dominions and great institutions.

"It stands as a loving tribute of a people in grateful appreciation of the undaunted courage and patriotic devotion of the illustrious dead: and may this lofty shaft forever proclaim the glorious achievements and undying fame of the Heroes of seventeen hundred and ninety-one and seventeen hundred and ninety-four."

Inscription on North Tablet

"This Monument was Erected by The Congress, A. D. 1912."

Inscription on East Tablet

"Major General Arthur St. Clair, Commander-in-Chief of the American Army, with fifteen hundred regulars and volunteers from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and that section of the

Inscription on South Tablet

Roll of Dead

"St. Clair's Defeat:

Major General Richard Butler; Colonel Oldham; Majors Ferguson, Hart, Clark, Lemon, Briggs, and Montgomery; Captains Bradford, Phelon, Kirkwood, Price, VanSwearingen, Tipton, Purdy, Smith, Piatt, Gaither, Crebbs, and Newman; Lieutenants Spear, Warren, Boyd, McMath, Burgess, Kelso, Read, Little, Hopper, and Likens; Ensigns Cobb, Balch, Chase, Turner, Wilson, Brooks, Beatty, Purdy, and Bines; Quartermasters Reynolds and Ward; Adjutant Anderson; Surgeons Grasson, Chase, and Beatty. Also Officers Ford, Morgan, Butts, McCrea, Thompson, McNickle, Crawford, Morehead, Doyle, Cummings; thirteen other officers and six hundred and thirty American Soldiers."

"Wayne's Victory:

Major McMahon; Captain Hartshorn; Lieutenant Craig; nineteen other officers and one hundred and twenty American Soldiers."

At the south entrance of the park stands a memorial arch of the same grey granite as the large monument, with bronze tablets bearing the names of those from this vicinity who lost their lives in the World War.

In the one hundred and forty-one years which have passed since the massacre of St. Clair's men, there have been so many physical changes in the site of that trag-

underground and was discovered beyond the intersection of Boundary and First Streets. This probably was part of Anthony Wayne's trail toward Fallen Timbers.

The early accounts of the battle indicate that the main army was encamped on a small plain rising above the Wabash, being drawn up in two lines on the southeast bank of the stream. The River carried a much larger volume of water at that time, and was one of the main highways of Indian travel through this region.

It is interesting to note that while the main source of the Wabash River is only about four miles south of the battle field, a distance of approximately seventy miles has been traversed by the stream before it reaches this point. The course lies across the northern part of Mississinewa Township, Darke County; southeast corner of Gibson Township, Mercer County; across Allen and Wabash Townships in Darke County; again entering Mercer County east of Burkettsville, and reversing its former course, it crosses Granville, and Recovery Townships, and after leaving Fort Recovery, crosses Wabash and Liberty Townships before cutting the Ohio-Indiana State Line.

To the left of the open space, a small stream entered the river, and its waters were so reddened with blood that it was thereafter known as "Bloody Run." Its former bed now carries Buck Creek sewer.

The fort was erected on this rise

Another important duty is to suitably mark the grave of Samuel McDowell. It has been proposed to remove his remains to the park to lie with his comrades. But he was a modest, home loving man, and this was his home, while the others lived elsewhere. Why disturb his rest beside his cherished wife and their descendants? The old cemetery, too, is hallowed ground and of vital historic interest, especially to the community. In marking his grave there, we could commemorate the fact that the remains of his comrades lay beside him for forty years. Let us make this a beauty spot to which we shall be glad to direct visitors.